



# NEWSLETTER



## Bringing Out the Best In Bladensburg Requires...

As a New Council Member of the Town of Bladensburg, I want to encourage others to step forward and play a part in the Bladensburg Community. I want a healthier, more secure place to live for the people of Ward II. Being a resident of Bladensburg for the past 18 years, I've experienced numerous opportunities to put my own efforts to work.

As the Newly elected Council Member of Ward II, I want to better the community by helping families financially by educating them on access to various State and County Housing programs. I would also like to be supportive of increased participation in the already strong leadership opportunities in this community and region.

Prior to being elected, I have been serving as President of the Bladensburg women's group, Beacon Lights. The ladies of the group are assisting and helping guide our residents toward a better life situation where they won't be

alone nor feel isolated. The goals that I have as a Council Member are to secure our neighborhoods and give our residents confidence in their safety. I would like to show Ward II residents, not only issues at hand, but avenues to strengthen their community. My primary concerns and focuses are the community schools, the senior citizens, and the opportunities we have with the Eco-Farm Program. Lastly, I want to focus on the many volunteers at the Magic Johnson Youth Center; this will always be my top priority because the Youth are our Leaders of Tomorrow.

By taking on this position, I Beverly Hall, Council Member, Ward II, will bring out the best in Bladensburg, along with your help. I would be honored to become one of the few "go to" people, as we stay mindful that it's time for change and together we will make a way.

*Beverly Hall*  
Beverly Hall,  
Council Member, Ward II



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- The "Green Awards"
- A Special Goodbye
- Around Town



### Contact Us

301-927-7048 (fax)  
301-927-5257  
4229 Edmonston Rd.  
Bladensburg, MD 20710  
[www.Bladensburg.com](http://www.Bladensburg.com)

(Complete information list on back)



## Fall Leaf Pick-Up Process

**Reminder:** The Town has embarked on a new fall leaf pick-up process. Each resident is asked to mark bags of leaves with an **X** by using tape, spray paint, or if you would like to receive **Green** stickers that will identify leafs placed in bags, you can call the Code Enforcement office at 301-927-0330. The bags will then be picked-up by the Bladensburg Public Works Department, not the trash company. We ask that you place them at the curb on Wednesdays with other yard waste.

Please note, **(DO NOT RAKE LEAVES TO THE CURB)**. Please help us keep the Town of Bladensburg safe by cleaning up the leaves so residents will not have to walk in the street.

Please note, if you rake leaves to the curb you will receive a Code Violation Notice!

For more information, please contact the Office of Code Enforcement at 301-927-0330.



## LEAVE A LIGHT ON:

Now the days are shorter and sunlight wanes in the early evening. As a crime prevention reminder, consider placing a light on a timer. It helps give your home an “occupied” look while providing you light when you arrive home. For more information about crime prevention tips, please **call The Community Resources at 301-864-6080.**



## CAUTION DRIVERS....KIDS AT WORK AND PLAY!

Community residents are urged to remind their children to walk on the sidewalks, cross at intersections, and use crosswalks when available. Community drivers are to be mindful as the light grow less each afternoon, be mindful that children may be walking or playing in the street. Remember **“Walkers Wear White At Night!”**

A Yule Log is a large and extremely hard log which is burned in the hearth as a part of traditional Yule or Christmas celebrations in several European cultures. This year the Town of Bladensburg, celebrating its heritage, will host its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Yule Log holiday event and Tree Lighting on **Friday December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013.** Be sure to arrive early and enjoy the festivities, food and merriment of all that is the holiday season. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., **Tree Lighting to occur at 6:30 p.m.** with songs sung around the Yule Log fire. For more information please contact **Town Hall at 301-927-7048.**



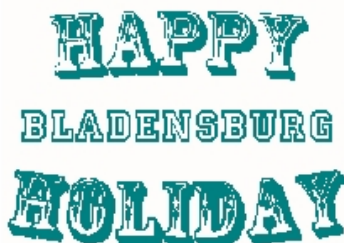
*Dear Residents,*

*As we approach the holiday season, we, the Mayor and Council of The Town of Bladensburg, would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a peaceful, joyous, and wonderful holiday! We thank you for all of your support throughout this year and for participating in many of our various Town events. We wish you a very Happy Holiday Season with the hopes that you will stay safe and healthy during this holiday season. Finally, we hope your new year brings you much happiness and prosperity.*

*Peace,*

*The Mayor and Council of the Town of Bladensburg*





## *Security Tips for the Holidays*

### ***Stay Alert***

- ☐ Keep your mind on your surroundings, who's in front of you and who's behind you.
- ☐ Don't get distracted.
- ☐ Walk purposefully, stand tall, and make eye contact with people around you.
- ☐ **TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS**—If you feel uncomfortable, leave.
- ☐ Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.
- ☐ Ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location.

### ***Credit /Debit Cards***

Credit cards are as good as cash and clerks rarely check identification. Most credit card companies hold the owner responsible for all purchases until the card is reported lost. To prevent credit card loss:

- ☐ Keep your credit cards in a safe place.
- ☐ Report any losses immediately.
- ☐ Take only the cards you will need for shopping.
- ☐ Check your credit card statements for accuracy.
- ☐ Keep a record of your credit cards and phone numbers to call if they're lost.

### ***Cash***

The tendency to carry large amounts of cash is greater during the holidays. If you must carry cash:

- ☐ Take only the amount you plan to spend when shopping.
- ☐ Keep all money in a safe place.
- ☐ Avoid flashing your money in public

### ***Transporting gifts in your car***

Gifts left unattended on the back seat of your car can be tempting to a thief.

- ☐ Always lock your car.

- ☐ Pick up major items at the end rather than the beginning of a shopping trip.
- ☐ Lock all purchases in the trunk of your car.
- ☐ Immediately remove all purchases from your car when you return home.
- ☐ Consider a locker at the shopping center.

### ***Deliveries***

Do not give criminals an easy opportunity.

- ☐ Schedule deliveries for times when you are at home.
- ☐ Make arrangements to have your parcels delivered to a neighbor if you are unable to be at home.
- ☐ If you live in a multi-unit building, bring packages left outside for your neighbors into a secured area.

### ***Home security during the holidays***

Many people like to keep their presents out for days before or after the holiday; also, homes are more vulnerable, given the time spend shopping and visiting.

- ☐ Close blinds/curtains at night or while you're away.
- ☐ Break up boxes, especially for purchases like televisions and computers. Put the boxes in garbage bags.
- ☐ A light display shows ownership and increases lighting in the area.

### ***Holiday scams***

Know your charities and retailers.

- ☐ Fake charities: If you're asked for a donation, verify the legitimacy of the charity before giving.
- ☐ Gift cards: Only purchase gift cards from trusted retail outlets. Make sure gift cards have not been tampered with before buying them.
- ☐ Scam emails and online shopping: Shop only at trusted retail Web sites. Do not respond to unsolicited emails or click on links in them.



### Commemorative Ornament

The Town of Bladensburg is offering for sale a commemorative ornament of the Bostwick. These beautiful full relief brass ornaments are very limited production and will be collector's item in years to come. The ornaments can be purchased from Town Hall at **the cost of \$12.00 each.** Please call 301-927-7048 for more.



Just about every natural cleaning product uses the same cleaners your grandma used. These ingredients aren't all completely safe -- keep them away from kids and pets -- but they're less toxic than many commercial cleaners, and a lot less costly. A good natural cleaning kit includes the following items:

**Baking soda** (sodium bicarbonate) -- gritty scrubber, also reacts with acids like lemon and vinegar

**Borax** -- disinfects, whitens and deodorizes

**White vinegar** -- disinfects and loosens dirt

**Lemon juice** -- disinfects, cuts through grease

**Olive oil** -- picks up dirt, polishes wood

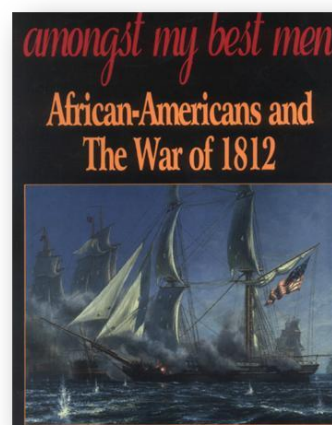
**Castile soap** -- all-purpose foaming cleaner

**Washing soda** (sodium carbonate) -- a caustic cleaner, stain remover and laundry supplement



## Black History Month Celebration "Save the Date"

The Annual Black History Month Celebration is planned to **take place in February 15, 2014 at the Public Playhouse.** The event theme will focus on the contribution of African Americans during the War of 1812. There will be food, fun and activities for all. Stay tuned for further information, or you may contact Town Hall at 301-927-7048 for more.



### A UNIQUE GIFT

Want to give a really meaningful gift this year? Want to make someone smile? Why not give **the gift of time** to a senior resident in our community? Sadly, some senior residents may spend this holiday season alone. Why not visit one of our senior residences during the holidays. Its certain to be a very special gift for someone. **Contact Town Hall @ 301-927-7048 to hear more.**





## POINTS AND EVENTS OF INTEREST, EDUCATION, AND FUN!

Date	Time	Event Name	Location
November 28 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Thanksgiving <i>Town Admin Offices Closed</i>	Town Hall
November 29 <sup>th</sup>	*****	Town Admin Offices Closed	Town Hall
December 9 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm	Town Meeting	Town Hall
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 pm	Yule Log Celebration	Town Hall
December 25 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Christmas <i>Town Admin Offices Closed</i>	Town Hall
January 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2014	All Day	New Year's Day <i>Town Admin Offices Closed</i>	Town Hall



The Town would like to stay in touch with you! The Town offers a number of community notifications and updates that may be of interest to you. If you are interested, please give your email address to the Town Offices or forward them to [jmoss@bladensburg.net](mailto:jmoss@bladensburg.net). ***Don't be left out...stay in touch.***

### LET'S TALK. REAL TALK

The Males Group is an Empowerment Program for males ages 14 and up, to help the male explore his past and present relationships. Attention will be paid to the myths of masculinity as well as negative messages that challenge the male as they seek emotional maturity and intimacy in their lives. Using lecture, movie clips and group discussion, participants will learn how to develop and strengthen relationship skills to foster healthy connections with others, and get free access to financial, health, and tutorial services.

**Thursdays from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm @ Town Hall**  
**Call 301-927-4098 for scheduling**





Recently, the Town of Bladensburg has been the recipient of a recent number of awards and recognitions. One such recognition was received during the recent Maryland Municipal League's fall Conference wherein the Town was recognized to be one of the (now) 12 Maryland Certified Green Communities in the State of Maryland! Topping this accomplishment, the Community Development Network of Maryland, a statewide non-profit association (of non-profits), awarded the Town the "Best Community Collaboration Award" for its work on building a collaboration of 14 Municipalities and delivering weatherization refurbishments to qualified residents throughout participating Prince George's County Municipalities. While it goes without saying, the Town is very proud of these accomplishments, and is continuing to focus on "growing" the positive impact of its efforts, for the benefit of its residents, and the betterment of Prince George's County and the State of Maryland.



For the past 45 years I have given myself to the Town of Bladensburg and its citizens serving in many roles from chairman for Town committees, being an elected official for the Town, and finally as an employee assuming the dual responsibilities of the Director of the Office of Code Enforcement and the Director of the Public Works Department. All of these things were done to make the quality of life for the Town's citizens as best as I could. Time has come for me to move on to another life and that life will be Retirement. With that said, I would like to ask all of the residents to join us for our Yule Log Celebration on my last day, Friday, December 13, 2013. Thank you all for being a big part of my life and I wish you all the happiest of Holidays as I say GOOD BYE !

## Calendar

### Worksessions

Second Monday of every month, 5:30 p.m.  
(excluding holidays)

### Council Meetings

Second Monday of every month, 7:00 p.m.

### Seniors' Club

Town Hall, 10 a.m., 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month

### Bulk Trash Pick-up

3rd Saturday of every month. Please call by noon the Friday before.

### Neighborhood Watch

Every Friday, 7:00 p.m.  
Call 301-927-8126 for info.

### CERTS Meetings

Second Saturday of every month, 9:00 a.m.  
Call 301-927-8126 for info.



Town of Bladensburg  
4229 Edmonston Road  
Bladensburg, MD 20710

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## RESIDENT

Bladensburg, Maryland  
20710

### *Around Town* The Port Towns Legislative Priorities Community Anchors



#### Transportation Anchors

Continued Funding of Green Street (Route 450)  
MARC Train Stop Study

#### Sustainable Industry Anchor

Green Enterprise District

#### Environmental Anchors

Dredging of River

Legislation to Minimize the Use of Plastic Bottles

#### Community Health Anchor

Designation as a Health Enterprise Zone

A policy change to allow the direct funding of qualified community Non-profits rather than reimbursement



#### Contact Information

##### Mayor

Walter James .....301-452-7560

##### Council Members Ward I

Cris Mendoza .....240-604-6349

Trina Brown .....301-509-9202

##### Council Members Ward II

Walter Ficklin .....301-792-8199

Beverly Hall.....301-785-9984

##### Administrative Offices

301-927-7048

##### Code Enforcement

301-927-0330

##### Police Department

301-864-6080

##### Public Works

301-927-1452